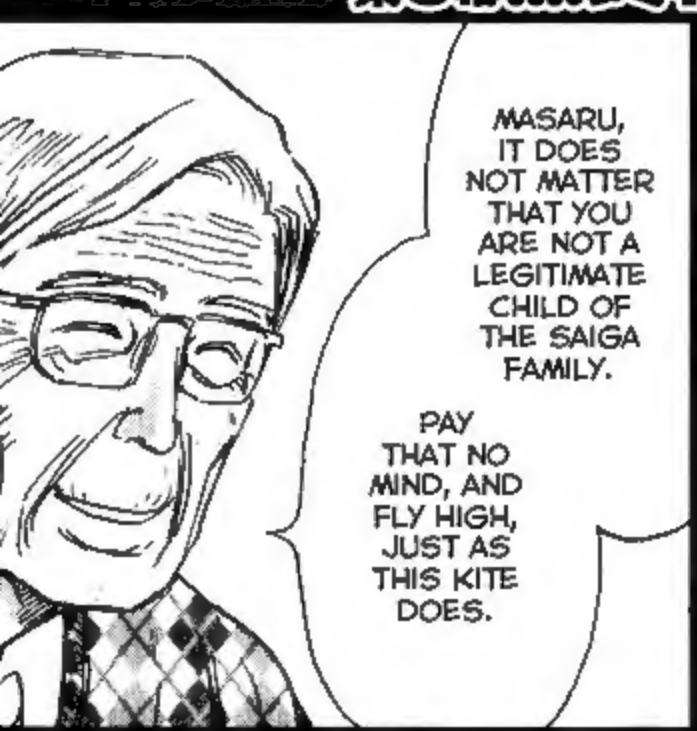
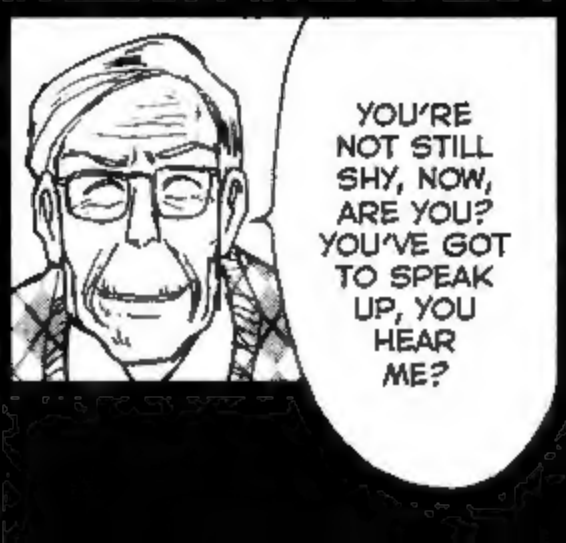
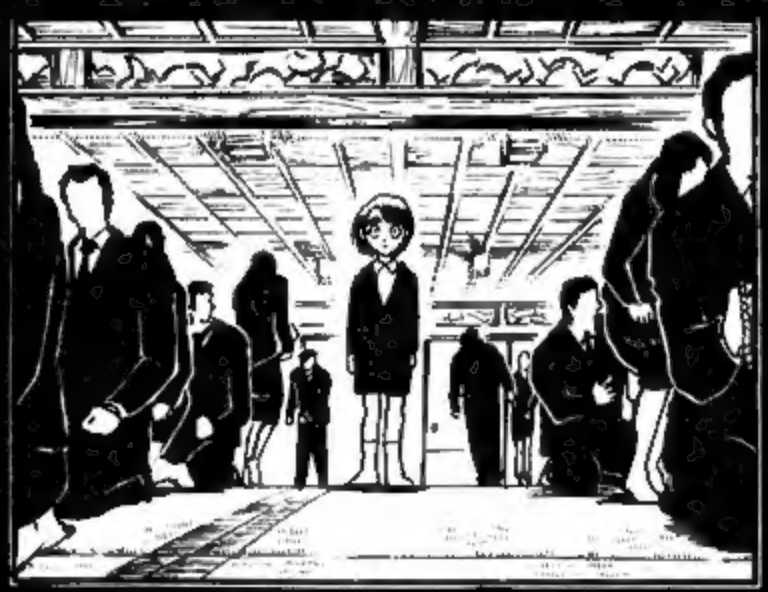
第8幕 黒賀村 長の屋敷


MASARU, IT DOES NOT MATTER THAT YOU ARE NOT A LEGITIMATE CHILD OF THE SAIGA FAMILY.
PAY THAT NO MIND, AND FLY HIGH, JUST AS THIS KITE DOES.

SFX: SHY FIDGETING



SFX: CHIME OF BELL BEFORE PRAYERS



WAS THAT REALLY ALL? I HEARD THE SEARCH PARTY DIDN'T EVEN FIND A BODY.
IT WAS SOME KIND OF ACCIDENT WHILE HE WAS HIKING. THAT WAS ONE OF HIS HOBBIES.
I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED. HE WAS SO HEALTHY ...

RIGHT, MASARU... HE SURE HAS GOT IT GOOD. HE'S JUST A MISTRESS'S KID, BUT HE'LL STILL BE THE SON OF A COMPANY PRESIDENT ONCE HIS OLD MAN TAKES OVER.
OH, LOOK. THAT'S THE BOY WHO WAS BORN TO SADAYOSHI-SAN'S MISTRESS...

Act 8
The Mansion of the Kuroga Village Head

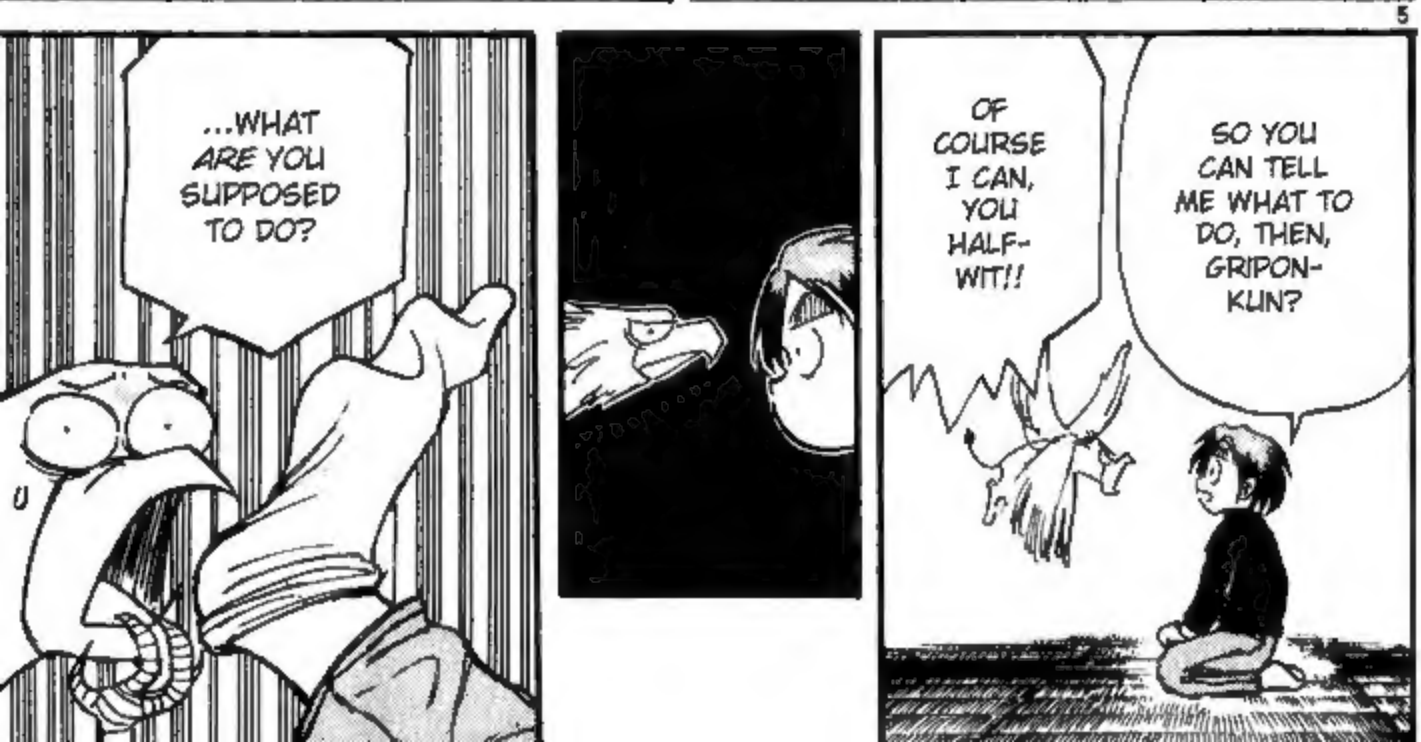
WHERE AM I?
THIS IS THE MANSION OF THE HEAD OF KUROGA VILLAGE.
YOU'RE IN THE JAIL CELL.

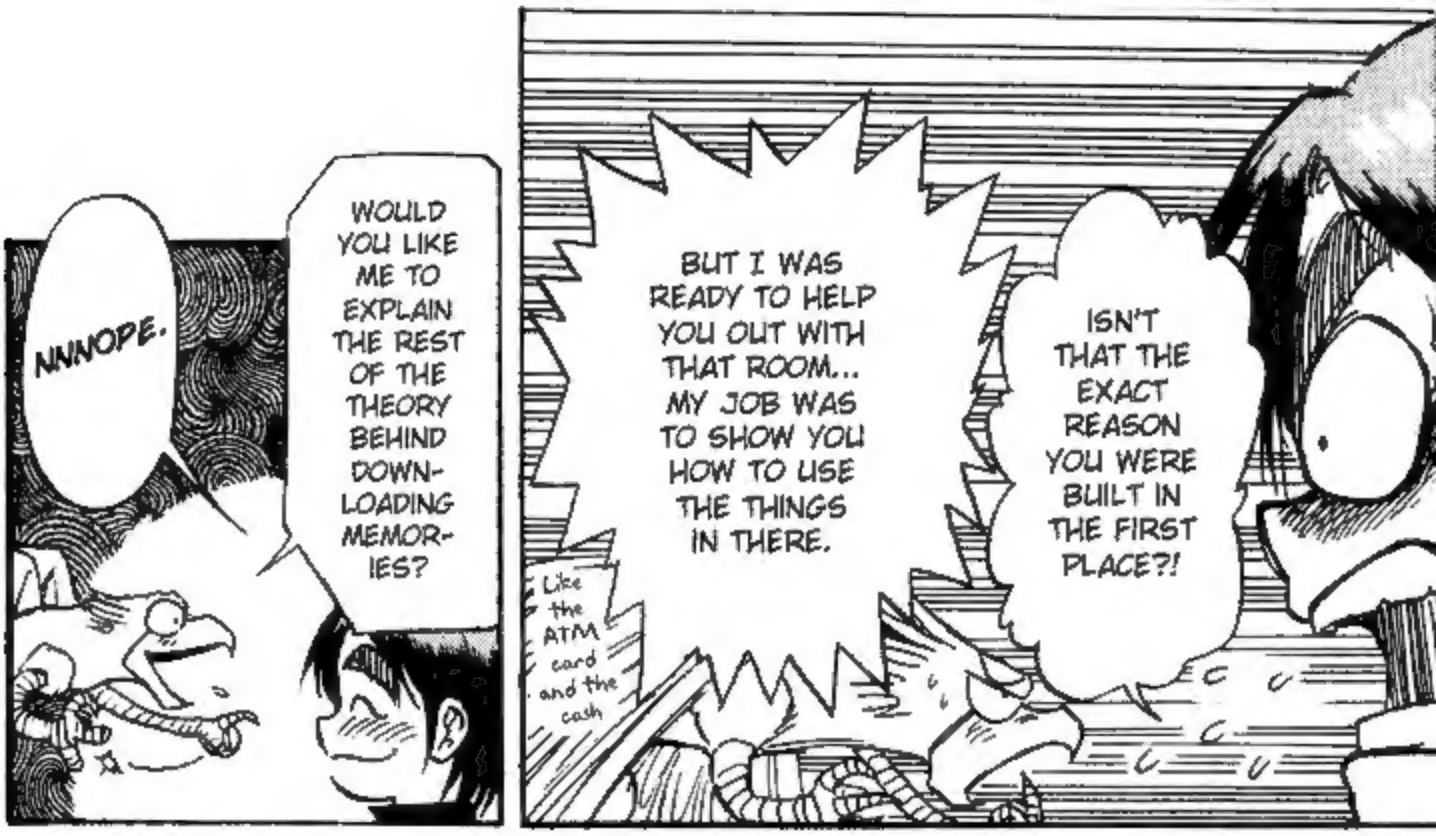
DON'T YOU REMEMBER BUILDING ME?! I WAS MODELED AFTER A MYTHICAL BEAST!
WILL YOU *EVER* STOP MAKING THESE ABUSIVE REMARKS ?!

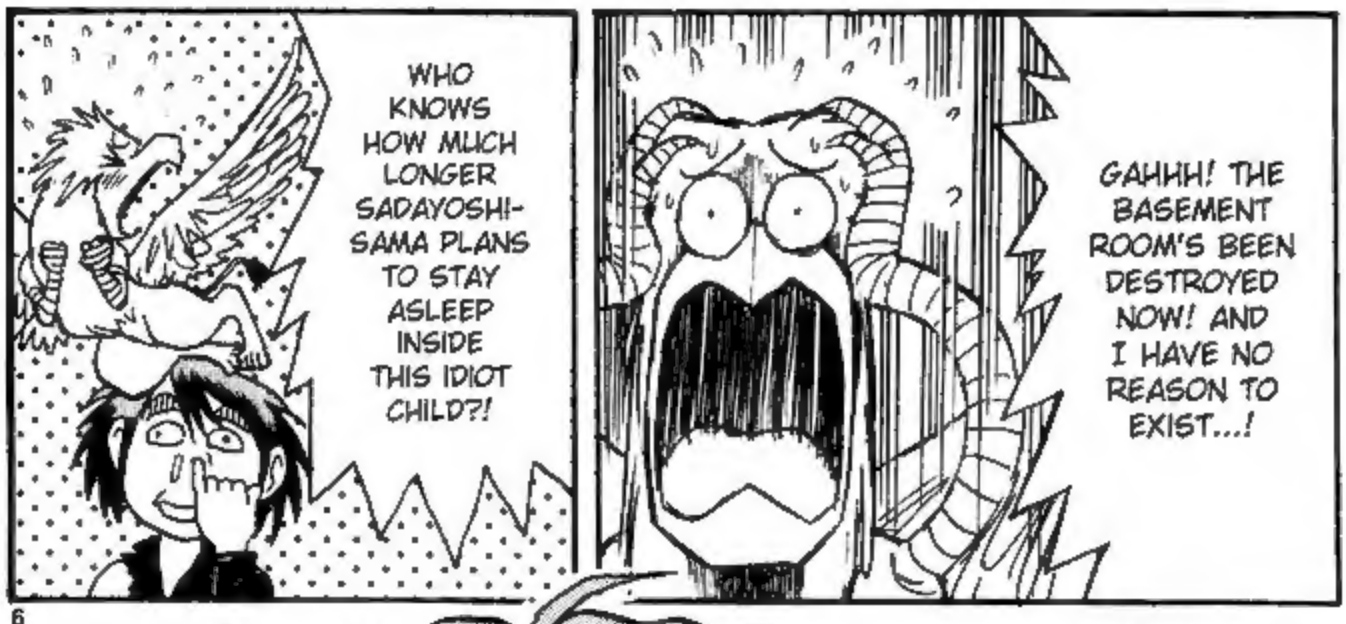
K-KUROGA VILLAGE? WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
DID YOU FORGET? YOU WENT CHASING AFTER THOSE PUPPETEERS FROM KUROGA, BUT THEY TURNED IT AROUND AND CAPTURED YOU INSTEAD!
Ouch...

BWAAAAH! A BIRD! A TALKING BIRD...!

WELL, HURRY UP AND REMEMBER THEM!
BUT I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY OF MY DAD'S MEMORIES OF BUILDING YOU.
HONESTLY! WE'VE BEEN TALKING PAST EACH OTHER EVER SINCE WE MET IN KARUIZAWA!
IT'S GRYPH-ON!!
OH... RIGHT... GRIP-PON-KUN...
IS ME! GRYPHON!
AND THE ONE WHO GIVES YOU THE INFORMATION YOU NEED FOR THAT, SHOULD YOU NEED HELP RESTORING YOUR MEMORIES; THE ONE GIVEN THAT ORDER BY SADAYOSHI-SAMA HIMSELF...
AND THERE MUST BE SOME CLUE THAT WILL PROPERLY AWAKEN THEM!
DEEP DOWN INSIDE OF THIS EMPTY LITTLE HEAD...
THE VAST EXPANSE OF SADAYOSHI-SAMA'S MEMORIES MUST BE SOUND ASLEEP!
Sorry about my empty head.


...WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO DO?
OF COURSE I CAN, YOU HALF-WIT!!
SO YOU CAN TELL ME WHAT TO DO, THEN, GRIPON-KUN?


NNNOPE.
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO EXPLAIN THE REST OF THE THEORY BEHIND DOWN-LOADING MEMOR-IES?
BUT I WAS READY TO HELP YOU OUT WITH THAT ROOM... MY JOB WAS TO SHOW YOU HOW TO USE THE THINGS IN THERE.
Like the ATM card and the cash
ISN'T THAT THE EXACT REASON YOU WERE BUILT IN THE FIRST PLACE?!


WHO KNOWS HOW MUCH LONGER SADAYOSHI-SAMA PLANS TO STAY ASLEEP INSIDE THIS IDIOT CHILD?!
GAHHH! THE BASEMENT ROOM'S BEEN DESTROYED NOW! AND I HAVE NO REASON TO EXIST...!

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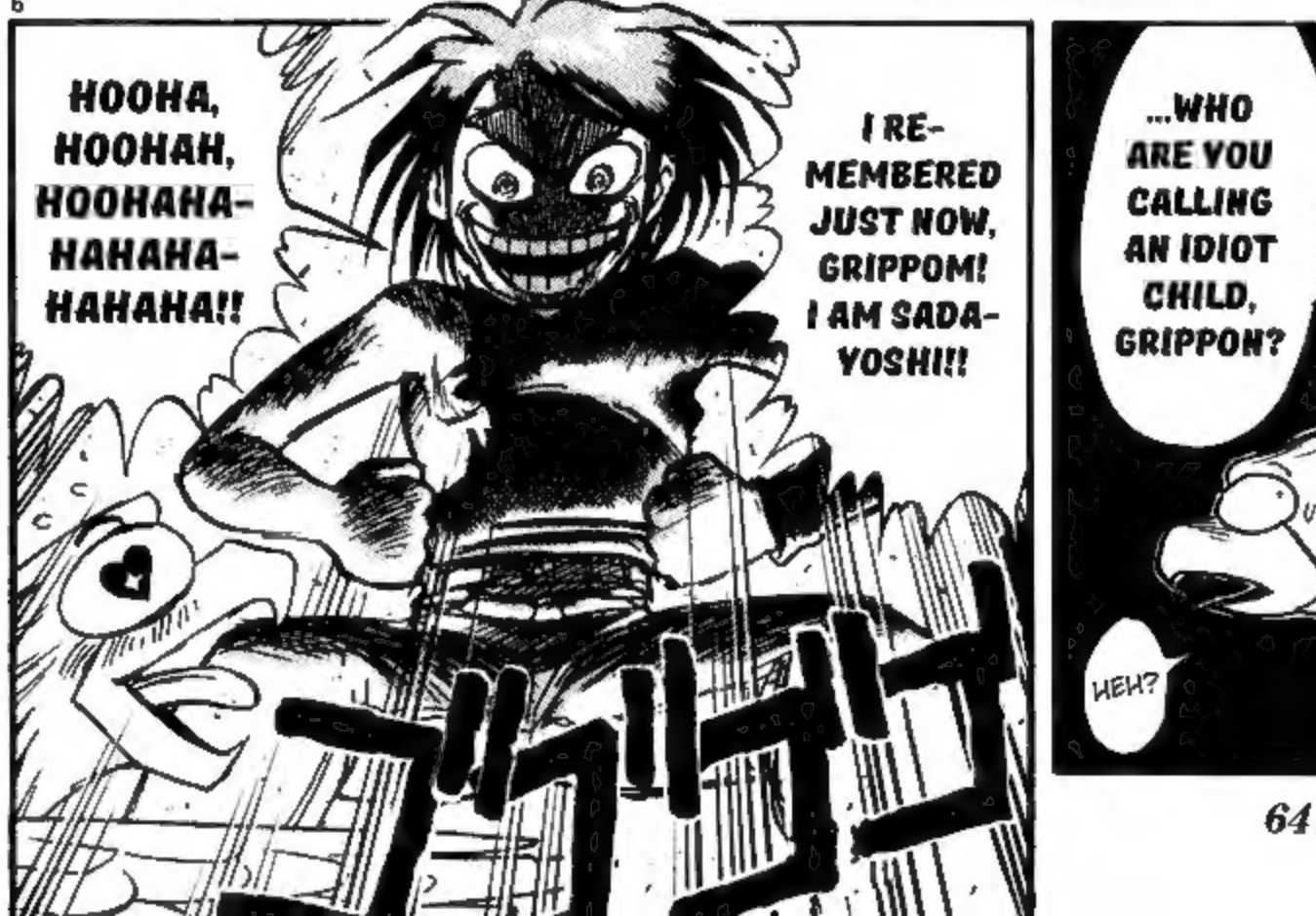
HOOHA, HOOHAH, HOOHAHA-HAHAHA-HAHAHA!!
I RE-MEMBERED JUST NOW, GRIPPOM! I AM SADA-YOSHI!!
...WHO ARE YOU CALLING AN IDIOT CHILD, GRIPPON?
HEH?

YOU'VE FINALLY WOKEN UP?! WITH MY ASSIST-ANCE?!
SADA-YOSHI-SAMA-AAAA!
ばばたたたた

WELL, THAT SURE CHANGED YOUR TUNE!!
OH, WELL... WE ALL CHANGE OUR "TUNE" EVERY NOW AND—
EH?
...I SHALL *REMAIN* IN YOUR HONORED SERVICE, OF COURSE ...
I'VE WAITED FOR SO LONG, THIN-KING OF NOTHING BUT THIS DAY...!
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ちゅっ

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Y-YOU TRICKED ME?!
GEEEEHHH!!
OWWWW! THAT ISN'T MY NAME...!
TAKE THIS, SADAYOSHI-SAMA! AND THIS!

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...GET OUT HERE. SOMEONE VERY IMPORTANT HAS SOMETHING TO ASK YOU!
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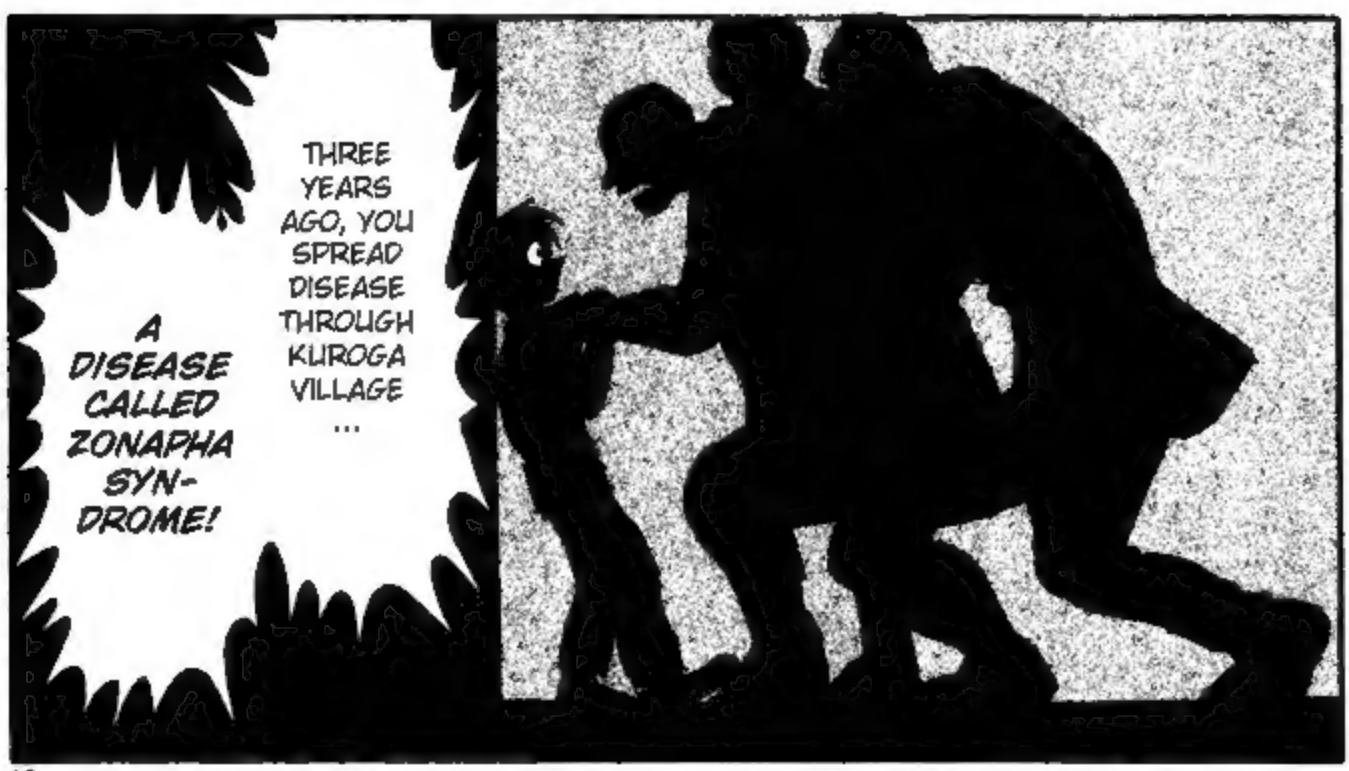
WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE...?
...I'M NOT SADAYOSHI. MY NAME'S MASARU.
ビク
SO YOU'RE AWAKE, SADA-YOSHI.

WHAT ON EARTH DID MY DAD DO?
I'M THE ONE WITH QUESTIONS HERE.
WHY THE HECK SHOULD I DO WHAT YOU SAY ... WHEN YOU CAME AFTER ME TO KILL ME?
N-NO WAY.
WHAT DID HE DO TO MAKE YOU AND EVERYONE IN KUROGA VILLAGE HATE HIM SO MUCH?!
WE CAN'T KILL HIM YET!
SHOU-GETSU! NO!

I... AM NOT... MY DAD!

"WHAT DID YOU DO...?"

YOU, THE VERY MAN RESPON-SIBLE... YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO ASK US WHAT YOU DID?!



A DISEASE CALLED ZONAPHA SYN-DROME!

THREE YEARS AGO, YOU SPREAD DISEASE THROUGH KUROGA VILLAGE ...

WE'RE NOT PLANNING TO LET YOU LIVE...

COME ON!

カ!!!

ZONAPHA SYNDROME?

I'VE HEARD OF THAT... IT'S THAT TERRIBLE SICKNESS NARUMI-NIICHAN HAD...

SO WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BRING YOU TO HIM!
BUT A CERTAIN PERSON'S TOLD US HE WANTS TO MEET WITH YOU!!

A CERTAIN PERSON?

WHAT DOES THAT ...

THE HEAD OF THE PSYGA GROUP BEFORE YOU...
SAIGA SHOUJI-SAMA.

A MAN WHO HAS SUPPORTED THE VILLAGE FOR MANY YEARS. WHEN YOU BROUGHT ZONAPHA SYNDROME HERE, HE NOBLY GAVE OF HIMSELF TO SAVE THE VILLAGERS FROM THAT SCOURGE!
...THE FOUNDER OF KUROGA VILLAGE...

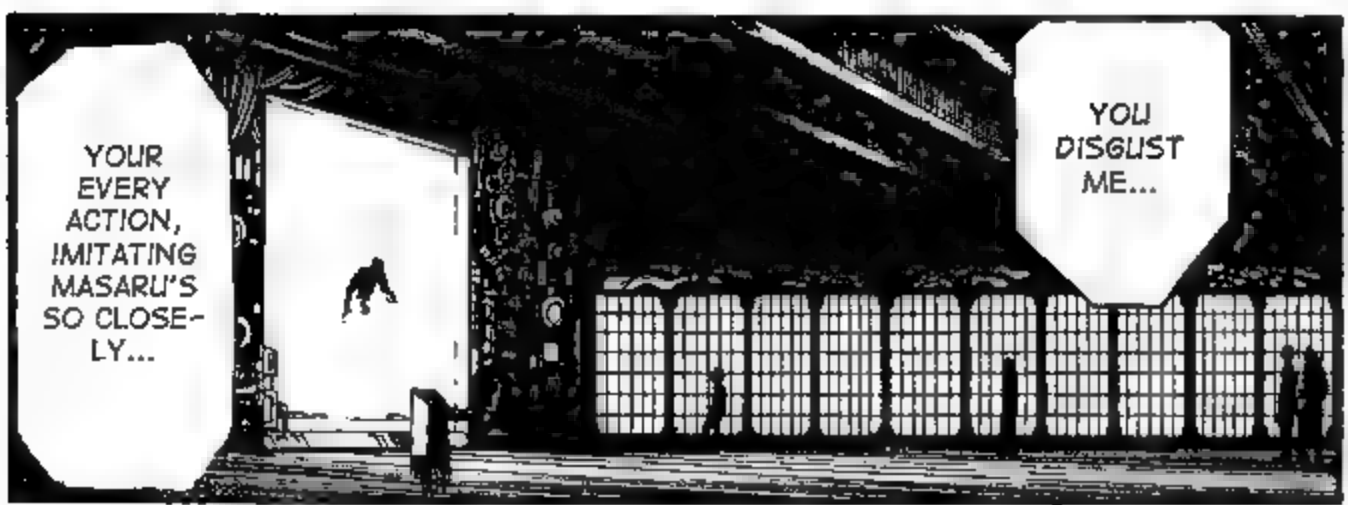
YOU SAIGA SADAYOSHI.

GRAND-PA...!
G-GRAND-PA...?

GRA-ND-PAA!

... GRAND-PA...?

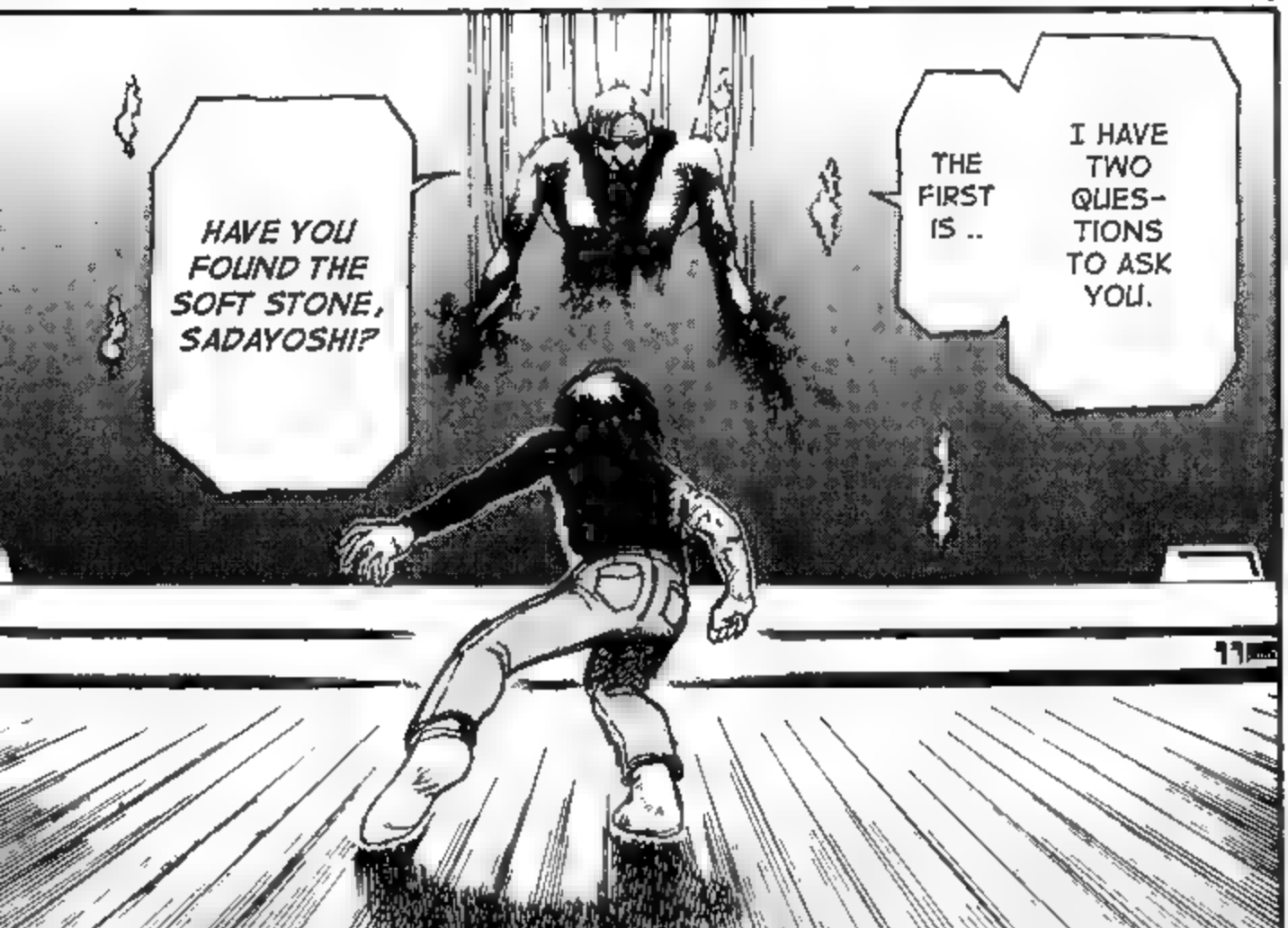
STOP RIGHT THERE, SADA-YOSHI!


YOUR EVERY ACTION, IMITATING MASARU'S SO CLOSE-LY...
YOU DISGUST ME...

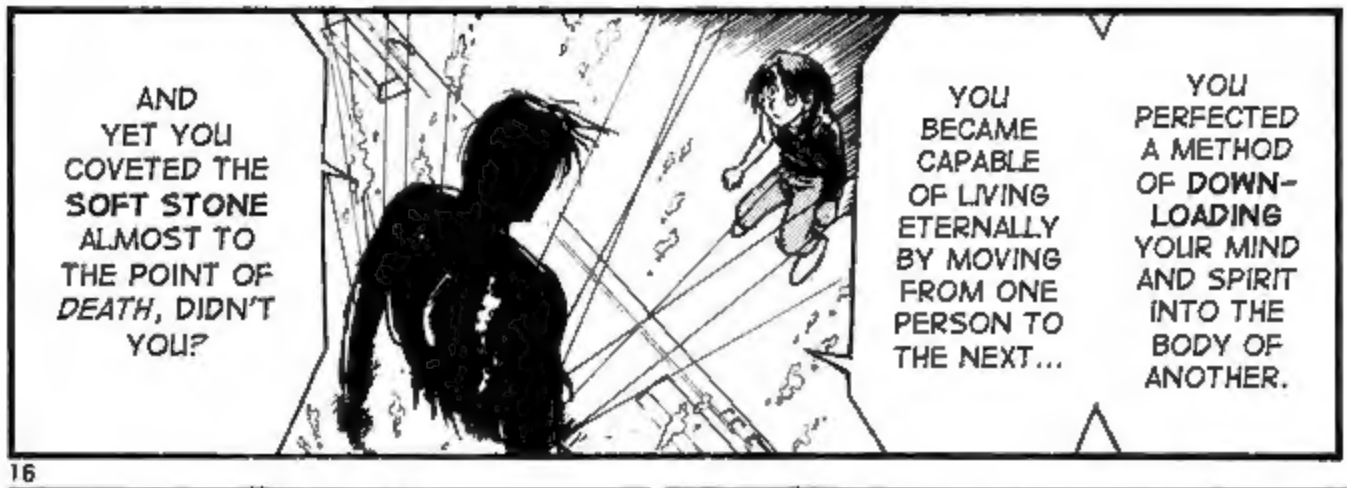
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, GRANDPA?! IT'S ME, MASARU!
I AM MASARU ...!

YOU MAKE MY BLOOD BOIL WITH RAGE...!
SA-DA-YO-SH! ...!

MY DAD DIDN'T TAKE OVER MY BRAIN! NOTHING LIKE THAT EVER HAPPENED!
IT TOOK ME FAR TOO LONG TO REALIZE IT...
YOU DECEIVED ME FOR SO LONG, FROM THE VERY MOMENT YOU BECAME MY SON!
GRAND-PA, I...!!
BUT I WAS UNABLE TO DO EVEN THAT
...WHEN I FINALLY AWAKENED TO YOUR EVIL INTENTIONS, I HOPED THAT I MIGHT SAVE POOR MASARU, AT THE VERY LEAST.

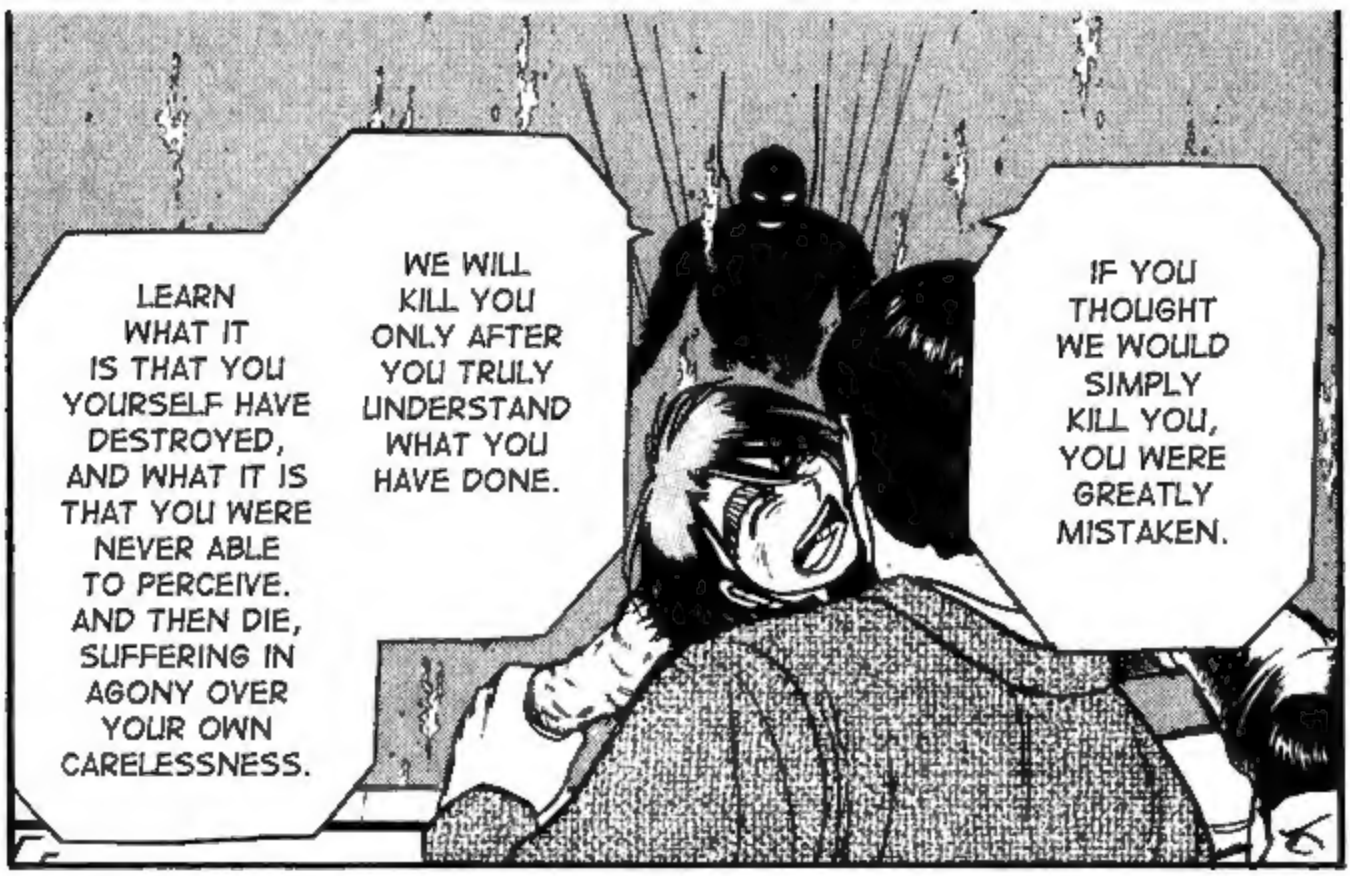

HAVE YOU FOUND THE SOFT STONE, SADAYOSHI?
THE FIRST IS ..
I HAVE TWO QUES-TIONS TO ASK YOU.

BUT... YOU MUST HAVE SOUGHT THE SOFT STONE FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.
HEH HEH... I THOUGHT YOU WOULD SAY AS MUCH.
I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS ...
...A SOFT STONE?
WHAT?

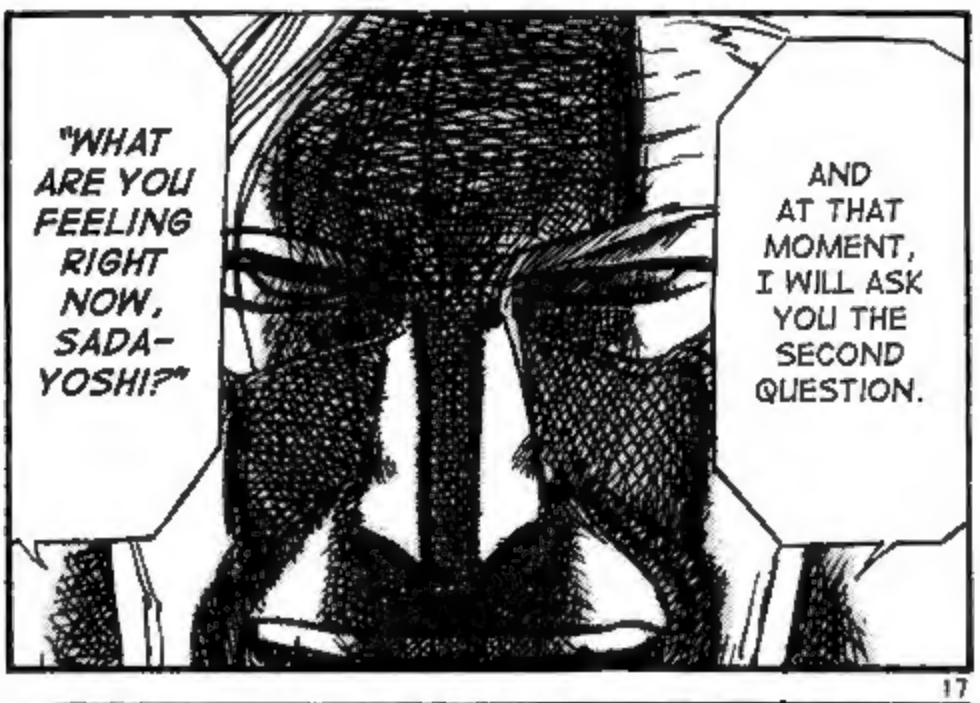

AND YET YOU COVETED THE SOFT STONE ALMOST TO THE POINT OF DEATH, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU BECAME CAPABLE OF LIVING ETERNALLY BY MOVING FROM ONE PERSON TO THE NEXT...
YOU PERFECTED A METHOD OF DOWN-LOADING YOUR MIND AND SPIRIT INTO THE BODY OF ANOTHER.

WITH MY PERSONAL HISTORY AS AN IN-ESCAPABLE PART OF THE BARGAIN.
CONSIDER THIS MY WAY OF TELLING YOU ITS LOCATION.
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!
AH...!


IF YOU THOUGHT WE WOULD SIMPLY KILL YOU, YOU WERE GREATLY MISTAKEN.
WE WILL KILL YOU ONLY AFTER YOU TRULY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.
LEARN WHAT IT IS THAT YOU YOURSELF HAVE DESTROYED, AND WHAT IT IS THAT YOU WERE NEVER ABLE TO PERCEIVE. AND THEN DIE, SUFFERING IN AGONY OVER YOUR OWN CARELESSNESS.

WHAT'S THAT?!


AND AT THAT MOMENT, I WILL ASK YOU THE SECOND QUESTION.
"WHAT ARE YOU FEELING RIGHT NOW, SADA-YOSHI?"

S- SO THAT MEANS... GRANDPA ...
A... AQUA VITAE, YOU MEAN ...?

AND THAT THOSE MEMORIES CAN BE MERGED INTO THOSE OF ANOTHER PERSON.
YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT THIS BLOOD IS CAPABLE OF PRESERVING ITS OWNER'S MEMORIES.
MY BLOOD.

I-I... BECAUSE... SHIROGANE TOLD ME ABOUT...
IF YOU WERE THE ORDINARY BOY YOU CLAIM TO BE, HOW WOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT SHIROGANE OR AQUA VITAE?
YOU FINALLY SLIPPED UP, SADAYOSHI !!
YOU'RE A SHIROGANE?!

S-STOP ...!
AND REFLECT UPON MY LIFE!!
DRINK MY BLOOD, SADAYOSHI!!
ばりゃ

"WHAT ARE YOU FEELING, SADAYOSHI?!"
AND WHEN YOU EMERGE FROM YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH MY MEMORIES, I WILL ASK YOU...

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

NOTES:

 # pg. 3: Sadayoshi was previously referred to as president of the Psyga group by the lawyer who first brought Masaru to the Saiga household, long before Shouji's disappearance. The same word (社長, *shachou*) is indeed used both times in the original text; the lawyer was possibly getting a little ahead of himself, or alluding to the fact that Sadayoshi was at that point basically running things even if he didn't officially hold the position of president.

The Kuroga puppeteers seem to have pulled another Schwarzes Tor and named their puppets after themselves, as they are definitely addressing the puppets in previous chapters. When the middle-aged Kuroga representative mentioned "Rekkuu and the others" in chapter 219, he meant the puppeteers and should therefore have followed up with "they" and not "their users".

I was mistaken in the notes a couple of chapters ago; Masaru continues to say "Grippon-kun" instead of changing to "Griffon-kun".

These scanlations have been uploaded *only* to Batoto so that I can remove them if the series is ever licensed. Please read them there instead of on websites that rip them and watermark them to make a profit off your views!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.